



PURPOSE

RVRS administers the statewide vital records and statistics systems. RVRS's work includes:

- Collecting, preparing, and disseminating mission-critical core public health data sets and statistical information about births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, divorces, legal name changes, and induced terminations of pregnancy, to respond to the needs of public health programs, health care providers, researchers, the media, the public, and local, state, and federal agencies
- Receiving, preparing, amending, preserving, and certifying legal birth, death, and marriage records for legal and genealogical purposes
- Maintaining over 20,000,000 vital records on site, and managing a public counter and research room

PRIORITIES



1. Develop the Massachusetts Vital Records Information Collaborative (MAVRIC), part of the modernization of the Vital Records and Statistics System (VRSS), which will increase user base and enable near real-time data accessibility for public health surveillance, including pandemic response and opioid mortality.



2. Improve efficiency and effectiveness of customer service to the public and operational support to data and registration partners, including better access to digitized records in the research room, an enhanced website, improved training, and a new monthly email newsletter.



3. Implement equitable policies and procedures through translating forms and instructions, ensuring accessible systems and data, and implementing data standards to collect social determinants of health.



4. Provide guidance to help our registration and data partners fulfill their responsibilities. This will include guidelines for using inclusive terminology, preventing fraud and identity theft, and protecting confidential information.

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Serve over **10,000 users** in local and state government, health care, and private sectors through the statewide VRSS
- Issue over **81,000 certified copies** of birth, death, and marriage records and support the local issuance of approximately **500,000 certified copies** at all 351 city and town clerk offices (a 25% increase in volume over the last five years)
- Handle over **850,000 pieces of mail** to support issuance of certified copies, amendment requests that include court orders of adoption and adjudication of parentage, and forms for local vital records offices and the public
- As part of the 21st Century Vital Records and Statistics modernization project, digitized over **15 million paper vital records** and related documentation
- Provide data and records for mission-critical work that serves the public to over **40 local, state, and federal programs**, including MassHealth, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and others
- Review and register **180,000 vital events** and amend almost **10,000 birth, death, and marriage certificates**
- Facilitate the Voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage program at birthing facilities, including over **18,000 acknowledgments** at birth and amendments of over **2,000 vital records** for court adjudications of parentage and adoption